Suisun Marsh Monitoring Program
Channel Water Salinity Report

Reporting Period: January 2006

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1. SUISUN MARSH MONITORING STATIONS AND REPORTING REQUIREMENT

As per SWRCB Water Rights Decision 1641, dated December 29, 1999, and previous SWRCB decisions, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) is required to provide monthly channel water salinity compliance reports for the Suisun Marsh to the SWRCB. Conditions of channel water salinity in the Suisun Marsh are determined by monitoring specific electrical conductivity, which is referred as "specific conductance" (SC). The locations of all listed stations are shown in Figure 5.

The monthly reports are submitted for October through May each year in accordance with SWRCB requirements. The reports are required to include salinity data from the stations listed below to ensure salinity standards are met to protect habitat for waterfowl in managed wetlands:

Station Identification	Station Name	General Location	Classification
C-2*	Collinsville	Western Delta	Compliance Station
S-64	National Steel	Eastern Suisun Marsh	Compliance Station
S-49	Beldon's Landing	North-Central Suisun Marsh	Compliance Station
S-42	Volanti	North-Western Suisun Marsh	Compliance Station
S-21	Sunrise	North-Western Suisun Marsh	Compliance Station

Data from the stations listed below are included in the monthly reports to provide information on salinity conditions in the western Suisun Marsh.

Station Identification	Station Name	General Location	Classification
S-97	Ibis	Western Suisun Marsh	Monitoring Station
S-35	Morrow Island	South-Western Suisun Marsh	Monitoring Station

Information on Delta outflow, area rainfall, and operation of the Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gates are also included in the monthly reports to provide information on conditions that may affect channel water salinity in the Marsh.

* Throughout the report, the representative data from nearby USBR station is used in lieu of data from station C-2.

2. Monitoring Results

2.1 Channel Water Salinity Compliance

During the month of January, 2006, salinity conditions at all five compliance stations are in compliance with channel water salinity standards of SWRCB (Table 1). Compliance with standards for the month of January was determined for each compliance station by comparing the progressive daily mean of high-tide SC with respective standards. The standard for compliance stations C-2, S-64, S-49, S-42 and S-21 are 12.5 mS/cm during January 2006. Table 1 lists monthly mean high-tide SC at these compliance stations. The progressive daily mean (PDM) is the monthly average of both daily high-tide SC values. The mathematical equation is shown below.

$$\text{PDM} = \frac{\sum \text{daily average of high tide SC}}{\text{\# days of the month}}$$

2.2 Delta Outflow

Outflow for January 2006 started off extremely high (i.e. above 250,000 cfs) and was about 250,000 cfs more than last year January start off outflow. Outflow continued to increased and peaked around 370,000 cfs on January 4, 2006. The increase and continued high outflow were results of December 2005 carry over of large precipitation events and continued precipitations in early January 2006. Thereafter, outflow began to decrease as result of little precipitation activity, but remained very high (i.e. 135,000 cfs) by mid-January. Outflow continued to decrease for the remainder of the month and ended the month above 50,000 cfs. January 2006 outflow average for the month was almost 5 times higher than last year January average. The monthly Delta outflow is represented by the mean Net Delta Outflow Index (NDOI). The NDOI is the estimated daily average of Delta outflow. Mean NDOI for January 2006 is listed below:

Month	Mean NDOI (cubic feet per second)
January	154,218

2.3 Rainfall

Compared to previous month of 16.69 inches and last year January total of 5.52 inches, January 2006 total of 4.13 inches is 4 times less than last month and about 1.39 lower than previous year January monthly total. The month's largest precipitation occurred on January 2, with a total of 1.68 inches.

Month	Total Rainfall (inches)
January	4.13

2.4 Suisun Marsh Salinity Control Gate (SMSCG) Operations

Operations and flashboard/boat lock installations at the SMSCG during January 2006 is summarized below.

Date	Gate status	Flashboards status	Boat Lock status
January 1 - 5	Open	Installed	Open
January 6 – 31	Open	Out	Open

Due to favorable salinity levels in the marsh, the gates continued not to operate during January 2006 and flashboards were removed on January 6, 2006 to provide access for levee repair work. DWR will continue to monitor salinity levels in the marsh and will re-operate the gates and install the flashboards if conditions warrant.

3. Discussion

3.1 Factors Affecting Channel Water Salinity in the Suisun Marsh

Factors that affect channel water salinity levels in the Suisun Marsh include:

- delta outflow;
- tidal exchange;
- rainfall and local creek inflow;
- managed wetland operations; and,
- operation of the SMSCG and flashboard configurations.

3.2 Observations and Trends

3.2.1 Conditions during the Reporting Period

During January 2006, salinity levels at Collinsville(C-2), National Steel(S-64), Beldons (S-49), Sunrise Club(S-21), and Volanti(S-42) were all below 4.0 mS/cm as shown in Figure 1. Despite January 2006 low total precipitation amount, December 2005 high outflow carry over and continued precipitations in January 2006 made it impossible for marsh salinity to inch upward. The marsh system was so fresh that salinity levels flatten out because it reached its maximum salinity level of freshness. 2.0 mS/cm and remained at about 10.0 mS/cm the first half of December, whereas Collinsville decreased sharply and leveled off at 6.0 mS/cm for most of December before ending the month at about 4.0 mS/cm with the help of several precipitation events. At the two monitoring stations, S-97 and S-35, salinity levels were also less than 4.0 mS/cm for the entire January, which is very impressive compared to last year January salinity levels which ranged between 4.0 mS/cm and 10.0 mS/cm at these two monitoring stations. S-35 salinity level is higher than S-97 as a result of salt water intrusion from overtopping of Bay water via Grizzly Island refuge.

Overall, salinity levels at the end of January 2006 were well below standards at all compliance and monitoring stations.

3.2.2 Comparison of Reporting Period Conditions with Previous Years

Monthly mean high-tide SC at the compliance and monitoring stations for January 2006 were compared with means for those months during the previous nine years (Figure 4).

Means salinity pattern of all compliance and monitoring stations resembles that of 2002, but lower in magnitude and S97 being lower than S35. Compared to previous nine years, January 2006 salinity levels were ranked ninth in high Specific Conductance since levels were so fresh.

Table 1

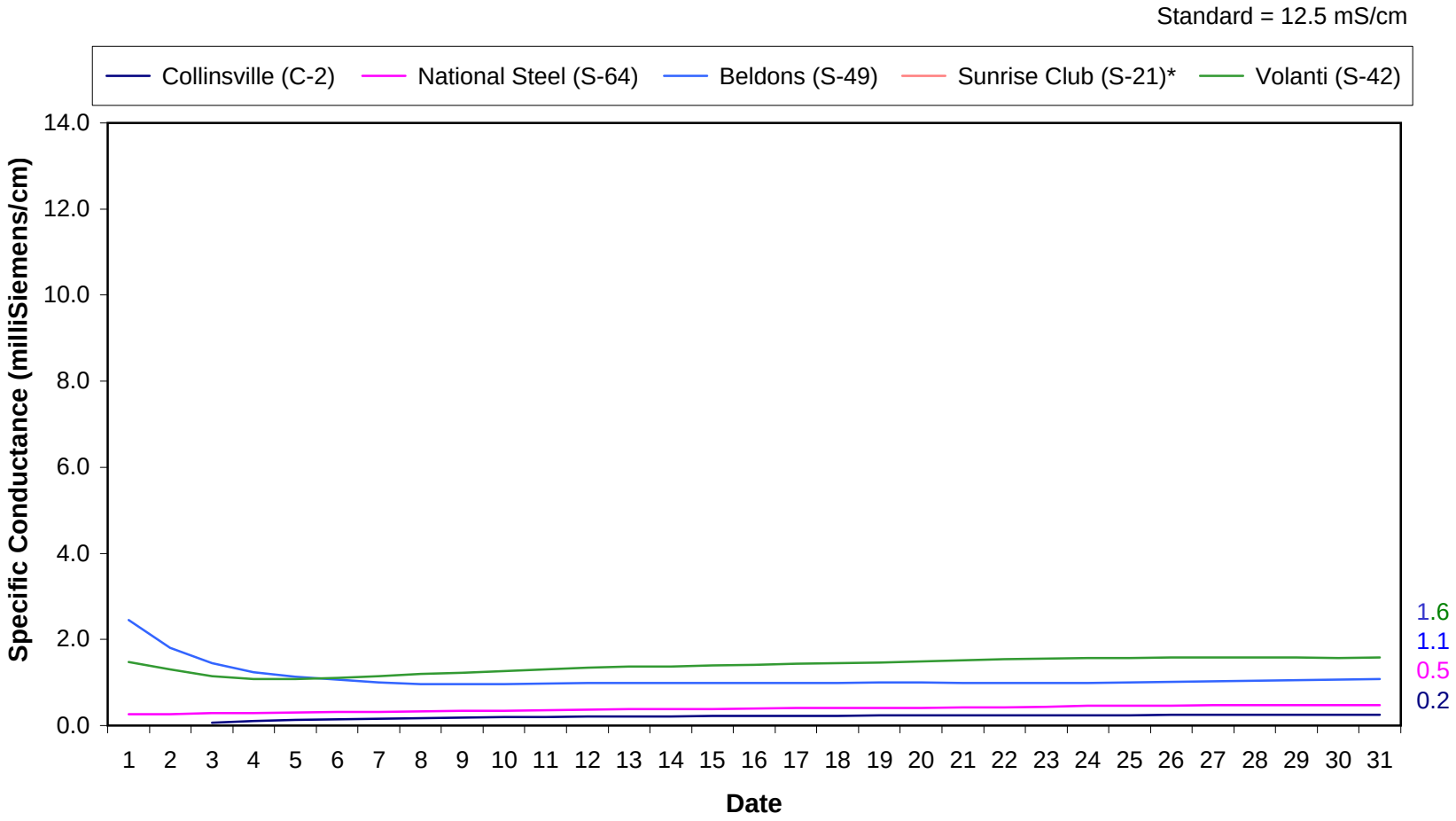
Monthly Mean High Tide Specific Conductance at Suisun Marsh Water Quality Compliance Stations

January 2006

Station	Specific Conductance (mS/cm)*	Standard	Standard meet?
C-2**	0.2	12.5	Yes
S-64	0.5	12.5	Yes
S-49	1.1	12.5	Yes
S-42	1.6	12.5	Yes
S-21****	n/a	12.5	Yes

*milliSiemens per centimeter
**The representative data from nearby USBR station is used in lieu of data from station C-2.
***End of month PDM value not representative of entire month due to missing data resulting from equipment problem, however, the number of missing data is not enough to alter the overall result.
****station data was not accessible due to flood water, thus salinity information is not reported. However, salinity levels throughout the marsh was so fresh that standard at this station was likely met.

Figure 1. Suisun Marsh Progressive Mean High Tide Specific Conductance
January 2006



*station data not accessible due to flood water, thus no data to report.

Figure 2. Suisun Marsh Progressive Mean High Tide Specific Conductance
January 2006

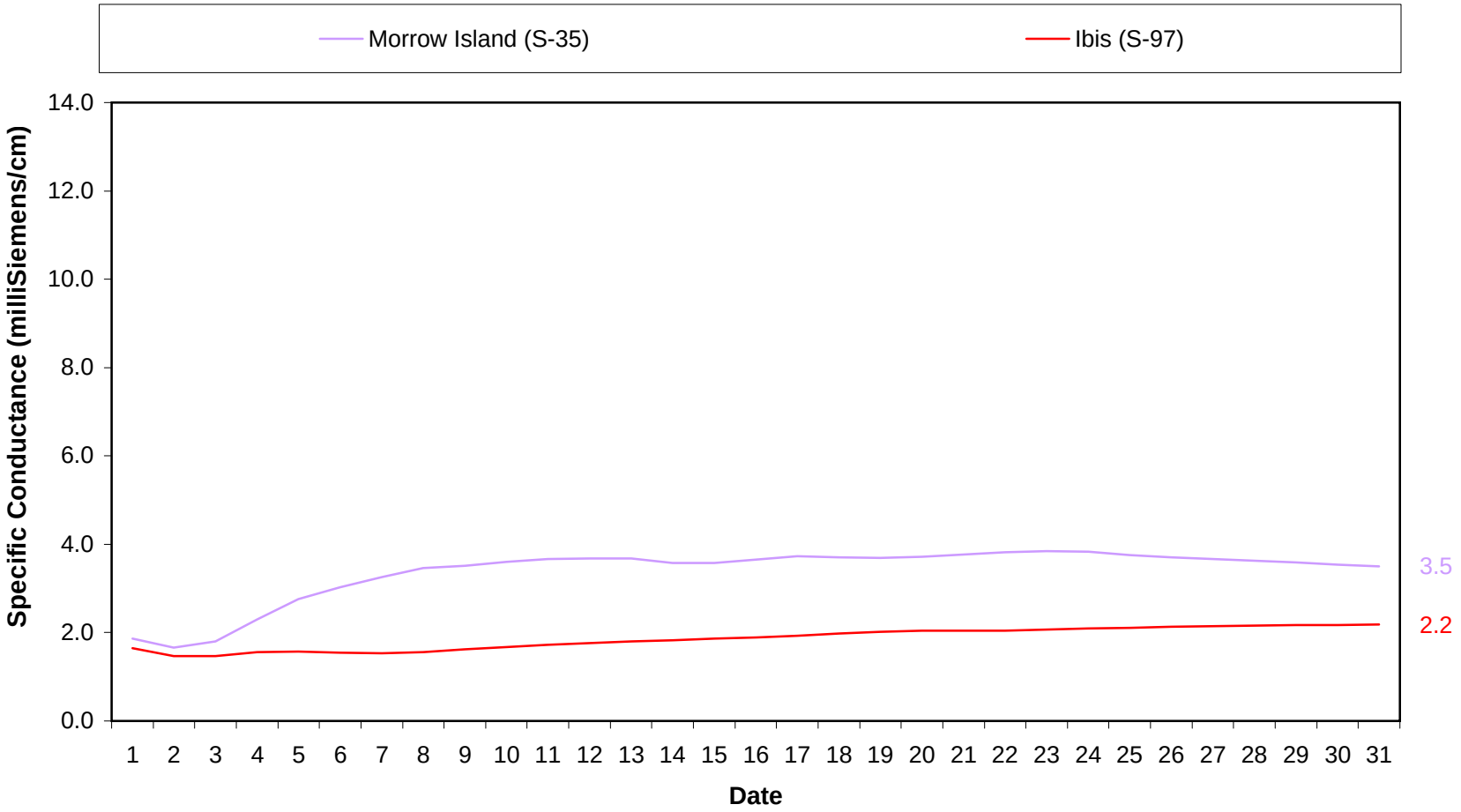
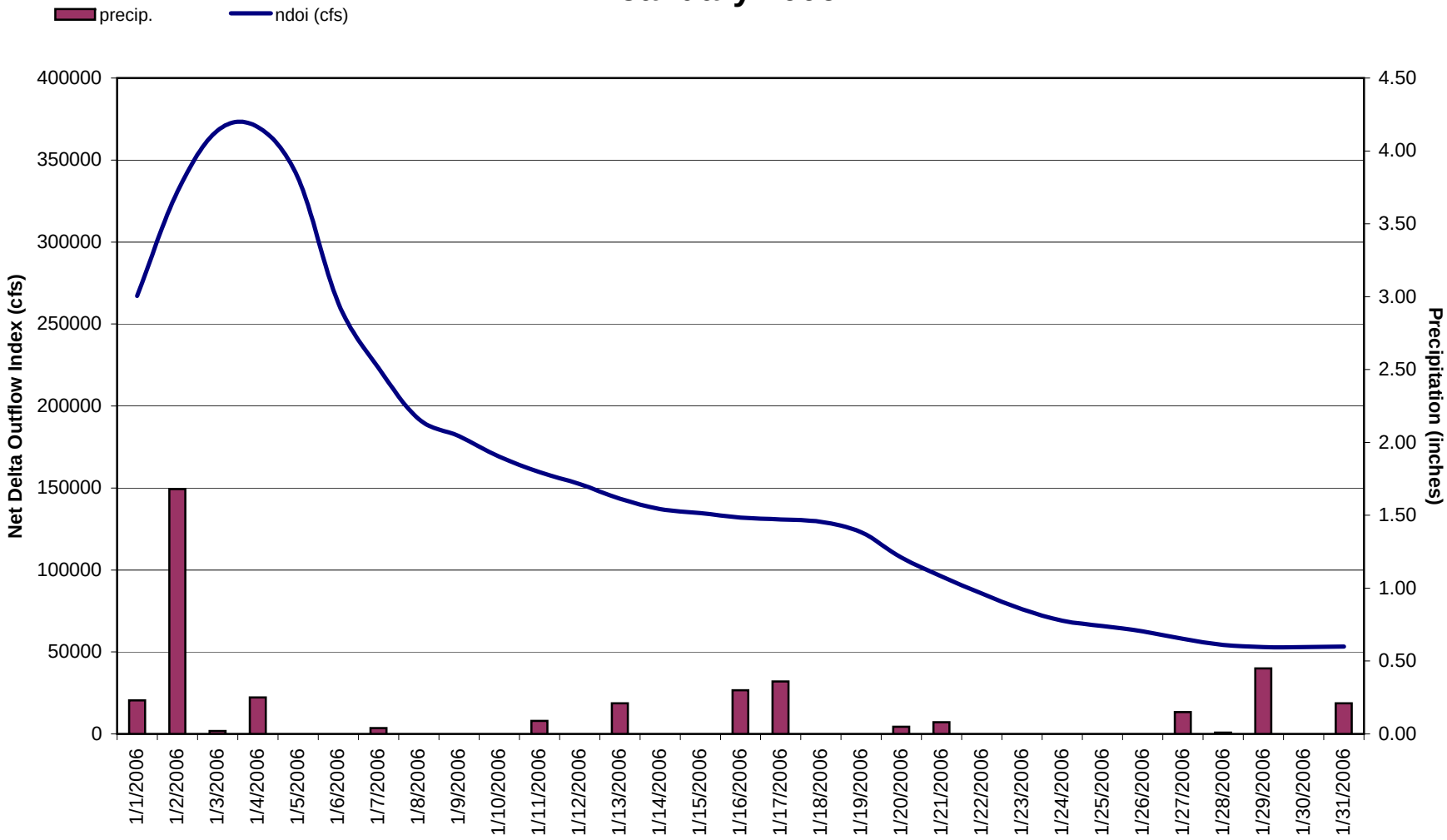
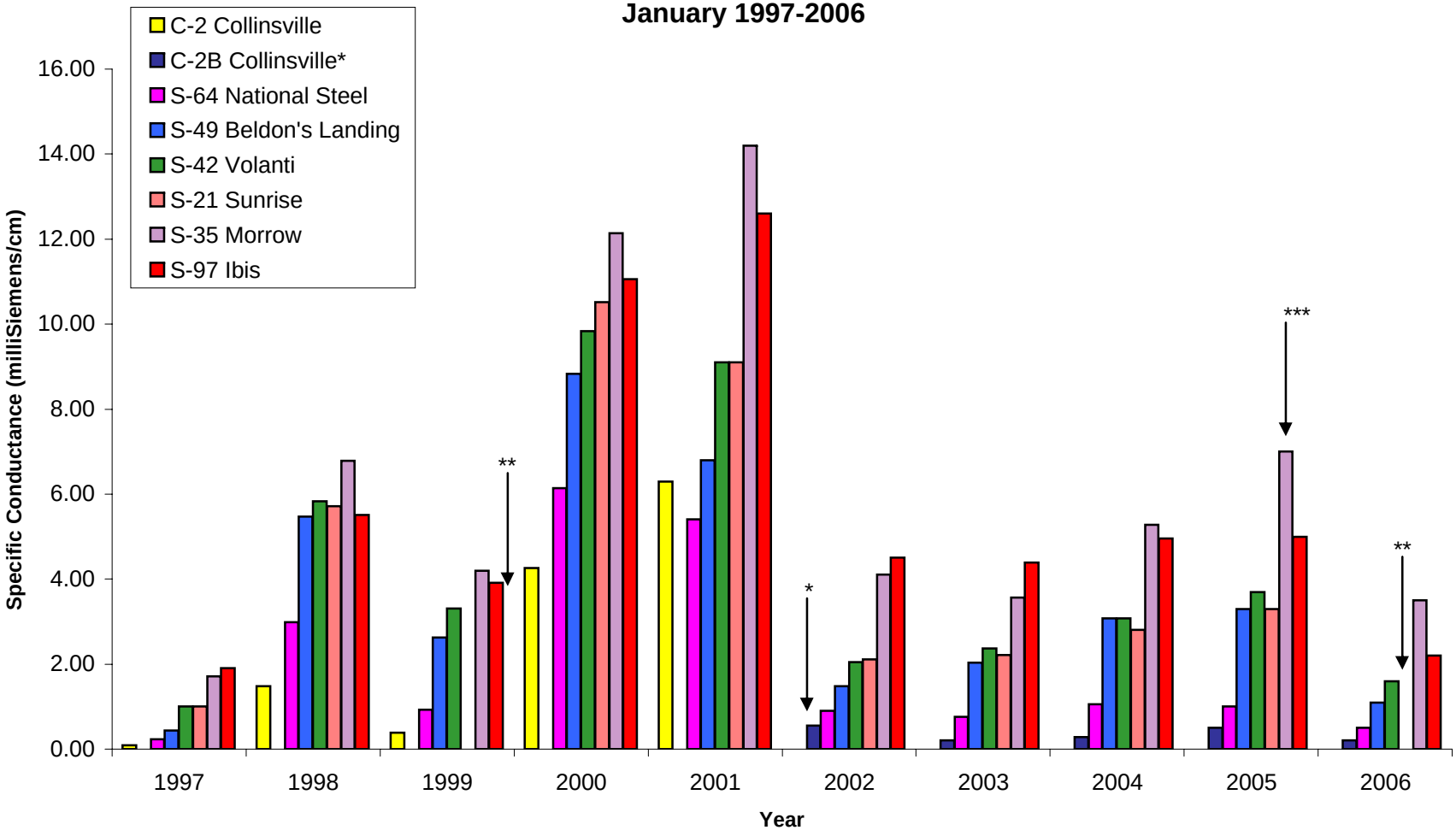


Figure 3. Daily Net Delta Outflow Index and Precipitation*
January 2006



*Preliminary DWR, O&M Delta Outflow data and precipitation from Fairfield Water Treatment Plant.

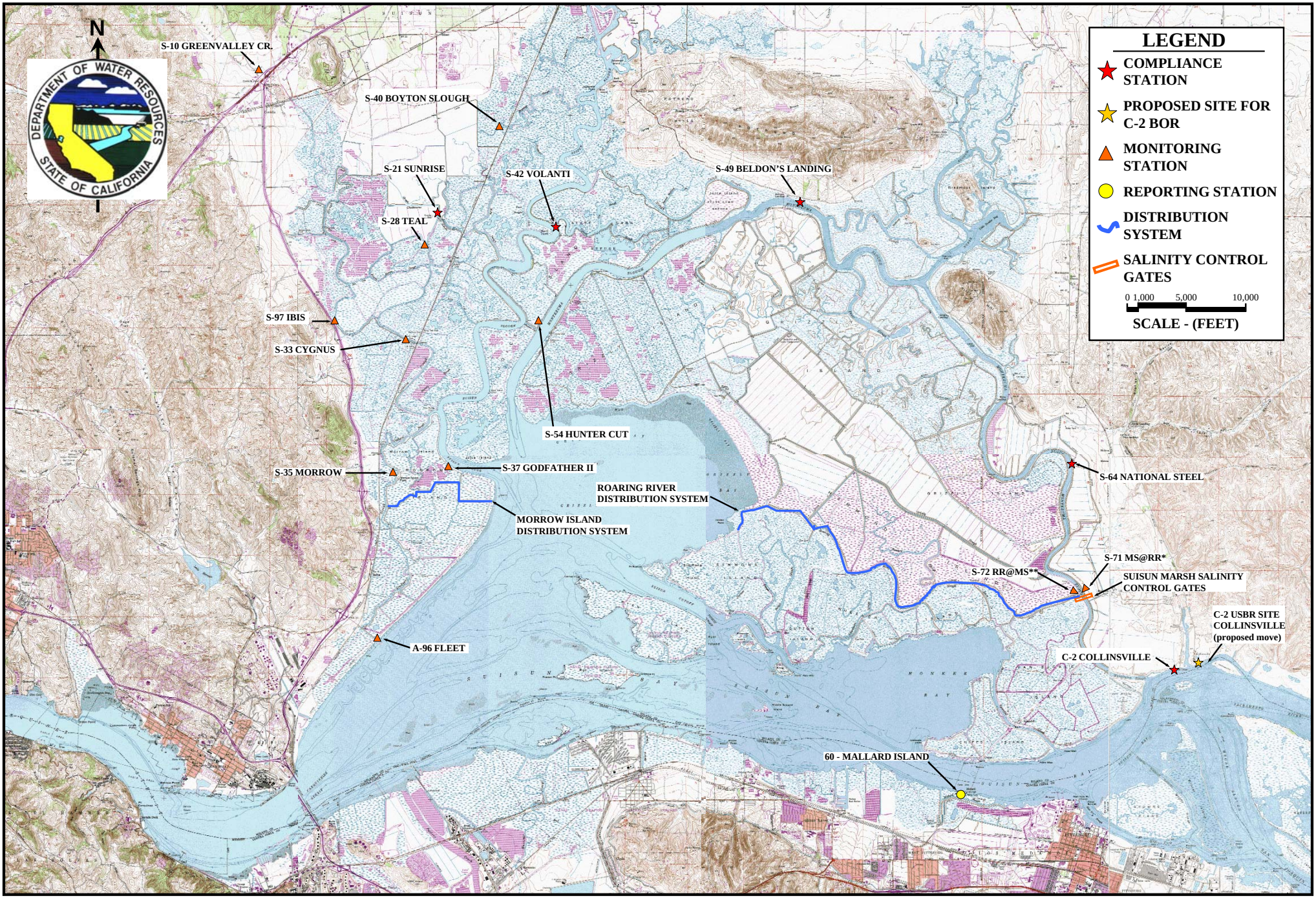
Figure 4. Monthly Mean Specific Conductance at High Tide: Comparison of Monthly Values for Selected Stations January 1997-2006



* = beginning in 2002.

** Data was not obtained due to equipment problem or flood constraint.

***Data not representative of end of month value due to missing data.



SUISUN MARSH PROGRAM WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND CONTROL FACILITIES